

### **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### **Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A steering wheel assembly for a vehicle comprising:  
a non-circular steering wheel;

an airbag module mounted to the steering wheel, the airbag module including an airbag inflator, an inflatable airbag cushion, and an airbag module housing; and

a deployable reaction surface for providing or receiving a reaction force for the airbag cushion when deployed and inflated, ~~further comprising trim that covers the reaction surface when the airbag cushion is undeployed and wherein the trim contacts the reaction surface when the airbag cushion is deployed, wherein the non-circular steering wheel includes two handles at the 3:00 and 9:00 positions, the handles comprised of first and second handle portions that separate to deploy a deployable reaction surface, the deployable reaction surface is a component of the airbag module, the deployable reaction surface is at least portion of the airbag module housing which deploys to provide a reaction force for the inflatable airbag cushion, the deployable reaction surface is at least two individual portions of the airbag module housing which deploy to provide a reaction force for the inflatable airbag cushion, the at least two individual portions of the airbag module housing included in the reaction surface are positioned at about the 12:00 and 6:00 positions of the steering wheel, the individual portions of the airbag module housing included in the reaction surface are movable plates, the movable plates are hinged plates positioned about the airbag cushion in the airbag module which deploy outwardly upon inflation of the airbag cushion, wherein there is no steering wheel ring in the steering wheel assembly wherein the deployable reaction surface is a component of the steering wheel, and wherein the steering wheel includes a flexible sheet for deployment about the steering wheel to provide a reaction force to an airbag cushion.~~

Claims 2-4 (canceled)

Claims 5-15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (currently amended): The steering wheel assembly of claim 15, wherein the steering wheel includes handles, wherein the handles are comprised of first and second handle portions which separate to provide a more evenly distributed reaction surface for an airbag cushion.

Claim 17 (canceled)

Claims 18-34 (canceled)

Claim 35 (currently amended): A non-circular steering wheel comprising a deployable reaction surface for a steering wheel mounted airbag cushion, wherein the airbag cushion is housed within a housing, wherein the airbag module housing comprises moveable plates, wherein the non-circular steering wheel includes two handles comprised of first and second handle portions that separate to deploy a the deployable reaction surface.

Claim 36 (canceled)

Claim 37 (previously presented): The non-circular steering wheel of claim 35, wherein the reaction surface is a flexible sheet.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The non-circular steering wheel of claim 35, wherein the reaction surface is a webbing.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The non-circular steering wheel of claim 35, wherein the grip portions are opened by a pyrotechnic device.

Claim 40 (original): The non-circular steering wheel of claim 35, wherein the grip portions are opened by an electronic solenoid switch.

Claim 41-48 (canceled)

Claim 49 (original): A non-circular steering wheel comprising two handles comprising first and second handle portions that separate to deploy two deployable reaction surfaces.

Claim 50 (original): The non-circular steering wheel of claim 49, wherein the deployable reaction surfaces are flexible sheets.

Claim 51 (original): The non-circular steering wheel of claim 49, wherein the deployable reaction surfaces are webbing.

Claim 52 (original): The non-circular steering wheel of claim 49, wherein the grip portions are opened by a pyrotechnic device.

Claim 53 (previously presented): The non-circular steering wheel of claim 49, wherein the grip portions are opened by an electronic solenoid switch.

Claim 54 (canceled)

Claim 55 (new): The steering wheel assembly of claim 1, wherein the steering wheel includes at least two flexible sheets.

Claim 56 (new): The steering wheel assembly of claim 1, wherein the flexible sheet is housed in at least one handle of the steering wheel, wherein the handle of the steering wheel is comprised of first and second handle portions that can separate to deploy the flexible sheet.

Claim 57 (new): The steering wheel assembly of claim 56, wherein the first and second handle portions are separated by a pyrotechnic device.

Claim 58 (new): The steering wheel assembly of claim 56, wherein the first and second handle portions are separated by an electronic solenoid switch.

Claim 59 (new): The steering wheel assembly of claim 1, wherein the deployable reaction surface further includes at least one portion of the airbag housing.

Claim 60 (new): The steering wheel assembly of claim 58, wherein the deployable reaction surface includes two individual portions of the airbag housing.